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# The Zion Spirit



*"Grounded in Christ: Sent to be a blessing"*

January 2024

## Happy New Year

The start of a new year brings with it an awareness of the passage of time and how our lives move forward into the future. Wherever you are on in life, if you take a moment to reflect as the new year arrives, we hope your meditations on your journey are a chance to give thanks and also look ahead to what God may have in store for you. Happy New Year.



## Zion Church Council – 2024 members

Our 2024 church council begins its work in January. As a reminder, here are the people who are serving this year: Sam Ehreth (president); Tim Wargo (vice president); Dani Dean; Bryn Jowaski; Tibor Kovari; and Elizabeth Thames. These folks help guide our work as a congregation. Please pray for them. Also, if you have something you want council to discuss, let one of them know and we'll look at it on our agenda. Council meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

## VBS Planning Session – January 10<sup>th</sup>

Last year we had a great experiment with a one-day VBS on a Saturday. We had great leadership and when it was done decided that we needed to learn from what we had done and get started earlier on this year's summer early in the year. So, we are starting this month with the beginning of the planning. The meeting will be on Zoom at 7:00 PM. Interested in helping plan? Let Deacon Marlene or Pastor Dave know, and we'll include you in the Zoom link! Thanks.



## Congregational Brunch and Gathering January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM

Our annual winter brunch and congregational gathering will be held on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall on the lower level of the church. We will enjoy a brunch together, look back at the year behind us, commission some new Befrienders, and vote on our Menu for Mission for 2024.



## Martin Luther King Food Drive

Every year to honor the call from Martin Luther King, Jr. to all of us to live lives of service, there has been a food drive in Elgin on Martin Luther King weekend (Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>). We'll do that again this year. Pick up a bag and a list of needed items for food donations when you come for worship. In addition, monetary donations allow the purchase of items at a much lower cost than we can get them at the store. So money for food is multiplied when you give! Food scarcity has become a big issue for an increasing number of people and our pantries and soup kettles are being stretched as they do this important work. Thanks for helping in whatever way you can!



## Cooking at Soup Kettle – this month only is January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Due to a death in the family of a key member of another cooking team, Zion's night to cook this month will NOT be the first Tuesday but instead we will be cooking on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>. Please note the change and thanks for all who serve!



## New Unit in Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Practices are offered most Thursday mornings at 10 AM on Zoom. During the month of January (4 Thursdays), we will be reading a short little book called **"Being Christian" by Rowan Williams**. Pastor Williams was the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Anglican Church and is a gifted writer. Themes include Baptism, Bible, Eucharist and Prayer. Our council read it this past year. Some of our council members



are willing to give or loan their copies to those interested. Let Deacon Marlene know if you would like a copy, until they are all spoken for. It is also available on Amazon. Kindle cost is quite inexpensive. A Zoom link will be sent out before we begin on January 4. Please let Deacon

Marlene know if you would like the Zoom link.

## Book Club— January 22 6:00 PM

We will discuss *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins on January 22. If you have any questions, or would like to be added to our e-mail list, see Rebecca Rizzo or Linda Bailey.



## Youth to go to ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July!

It's been six years since the last ELCA Youth Gathering (delayed due to Covid). Thousands of youth and youth leaders will gather to celebrate in New Orleans in July for most of 5 days to worship together, learn, serve and play together. It's an amazing event! This year Zion is partnering with Bethlehem Lutheran, Holy Trinity Lutheran and Mary and Martha Lutheran to send a group of students (8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade) together. We are preparing together, will fly together and share hotel space. Please watch for ways you can support this powerful opportunity for our young people!



## 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Bible Study will resume on January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM



Monday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> will be our 4<sup>th</sup> Monday Bible study. We meet online using Zoom at 7:00 PM and we will dig into the texts from the book of Mark, with special focus on Jesus' healing ministry

and his parables. Join us online!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83312999384?pwd=NXo1M1VFMIQyQ05pYk1Qa1Y3RWlaZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 1299 9384

Passcode: 4316

## Men's Ministry – January 8 6:30 PM

Our Men's Ministry group has been going strong with good attendance and having a great time when we are together. Our January meeting is set for January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. We have a team of guys who will be planning some upcoming activities for the group. Have you been thinking about coming – this month may be the time to start!



## Chili Cookoff – February 3<sup>rd</sup>

Do you have a good chili recipe? Or do you like to eat chili? Or do you just love getting together with folks over a meal – no matter what it is? If your answer to one or more of these questions is "yes," then you will not want to miss this year's chili cookoff. We'll gather at 5:00 PM for tasting and then announce the winner after everyone gets a chance to taste and vote for their favorites. We need cooks and tasters so there is something(s) for everyone! Watch for a sign up for our cooks!



## January Is National Gratitude Month for Mentors

In the decade that Zion has been involved with the Kids Hope mentoring program at Lowrie Elementary School we have provided 8-11 mentors each year. Over the years mentors have been trained through Zion leadership and served at the school. You may be reading this newsletter and thinking, "I remember when I did it!" and it could not have happened without any of you. This year we had eleven returning mentors. Jean Templeton has mentored since 2017. Chris and Tim Wargo have been involved since 2018-2019. Jeff and Tricia Grosser and Pastor Dave and Deacon Marlene have served for over a decade. Eric Hanson jumped right in 2021. Valann Reddington and Linda Bailey received their first students during Covid when we had to Zoom with our kids. And the newest mentor, Sue Ledbetter, is in her second year of mentoring.

*Thank you* 

A big thank you to Zion mentors who have committed to this ministry and served year after year. Backing up the mentors are the prayer partners who pray consistently for an individual mentor and the child. A shout out to Ellie Ball (who prays for all the mentors), Bryce Bannerman, Mariann Brevik, John Dvorak, Robin Honaker, Cheryl Juris, Kris Kovari, Jennifer Leatherby, Jeanne Meyer, Vicki Molander, Karen Rizzo, and Elizabeth Thames. Prayers were needed especially this year when we had a late start due to staffing and contractual procedures. Under the excellent directorship of Gudrun Dorgan we have been running full steam ahead since November. As the new year unfolds we look forward to what God has in store for all of us and our mentees at Lowrie!

## Annual Report Slide Show – Photos needed!!

Do you have any pictures from life at Zion in 2023? If so, send them to the church ([ZionElgin@Yahoo.com](mailto:ZionElgin@Yahoo.com)) with "2023 Photos" in the subject line. Just send two photos per email (they can be large and then emails don't go through) and please have them in before Sunday, January 7th so Dani Dean has time to build the slide show. Thanks!



## Jacob Russell's Eagle Ceremony

January 28<sup>th</sup> will be a milestone in Jake's journey as he receives his Eagle Scout award. Jake has achieved scouting's highest award. Jake's Eagle project was to work on the landscaping at Zion with a team of scouts and adults. Please congratulate him either at the ceremony (which you are invited to) or when you see him and say a prayer of thanks for the good work he did to receive this award. Congratulations Jake!

### Scouts, BSA Troop 46

cordially invites you to attend a

Court of Honor for

*Jacob William Russell*

who is advancing to the rank of

Eagle Scout.

**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

**at 3:00 p.m.**

Grace Lutheran Church

5N600 Hanson Road

St. Charles, IL 60175

RSVP to Vicki Russell 815-739-1134 or

[nocoutrn@gmail.com](mailto:nocoutrn@gmail.com)

by Sunday, January 21st

Cake & Lunch to be served following ceremony.

Troop 46 of the Ottawa District, Three Fires Council

Chartered by Friends of Fox Valley Youth







### Upcoming January Birthdays

Happy Birthday to our friends with upcoming birthdays! If you have an upcoming birthday and are not on this list, please email the office at [zionelgin@yahoo.com](mailto:zionelgin@yahoo.com).

01-Janis Sherwood  
03-John Bradburn  
07-David Stoffregen  
13-Danielle Dean  
23-Kelby Bannerman  
29-John Dvorak



January 8th—Men's Ministry  
January 13th—MLK Breakfast @ Elgin Community College 8:00AM  
January 14th—MLK Food Drive  
January 15th—MLK Holiday—Office Closed  
January 21st—Congregational meeting and brunch  
February 3rd—Chili Cookoff  
February 14th—Valentine's Day  
February 14th—Ash Wednesday (start of Lent)  
March 10th—Daylight Savings Time begins  
March 16th—Spaghetti Dinner  
March 24—Palm Sunday  
March 31—Easter Sunday

### Lessons and Verse of the Month

#### Verse of the month January:

Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17)

#### January 7

**"Jesus Only Helps People Who Need It"**

Psalm 103:6-14

Mark 2:1-17

#### January 14

**"The Extravagant Abundance of God"**

Psalm 126

Mark 4:1-9, 21-34

#### January 21

**"Loving Those Who Are Hardest to Love"**

Psalm 89:1-4

Mark 5:1-20

#### January 28

**"Healing More Than Just Our Bodies"**

Psalm 131

Mark 5:21-43